

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03477 130819Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 HA-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /106 W
-----093434 140201Z /73

R 121620Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1096
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS TUNIS 3477

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, TS
SUBJECT: ER-RAI DIRECTOR BEN AMMAR APPEARS BEFORE MILITARY
TRIBUNAL

REF: TUNIS 2839

1. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL DEMOCRAT WEEKLY HASSIB BEN AMMAR
(AN EX-MINISTER OF DEFENSE) APPARED BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNAL
IN TUNIS ON MAY 11 TO ANSWER CHARGES OF DEFAMATION OF THE
ARMY (UNDER ARTICLE 50 OF PRESS CODE -- SEE A-019). HEARING
WAS HELD BECAUSE OF COMPLAINT FILED BY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
THAT ER-RAI PUBLISHED LETTER TO THE EDITOR WHICH ARMY JUDGED
AS AFFRONT TO ITS HONOR. ACCORDING TO REPORTS WE HAVE
FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, THESE CHARGES STEM FROM LETTER
PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 19 CRITICIZING USE OF ARMY IN PUTTING
DOWN DISTURBANCES AT KSAR HELLAL IN OCTOBER.

2. SEMI-INDEPENDENT DAILIES AS-SABAH AND LE TEMPS
MAY 12 REPORTED BRIEFLY BEN AMMAR'S APPEARANCE AND NOTED THAT
HIS ATTORNEYS REQUESTED A DISMISSAL OF ALL CHARGES. ER-RAI
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DAY BEFORE HAD ALSO REFERRED TO BEN AMMAR'S IMPENDING
TRIAL, NOTING THAT A SIMILAR CHARGE AGAINST BEN AMMAR
IS BEFORE CIVIL COURT STEMMING FROM PBULICATION OF
ANOTHER LETTER ON FEBRUARY 9 CALLING FOR RESPECT OF TRADE
UNION LIBERTIES, GENERAL AMNESTY AND END OF CAMPAIGN
AGAINST TRADE UNION MILITANTS, ETC. UNRELATED CHARGES
AGAINST SOCIAL DEMOCRAT LEADER AHMED MESTIRI FOR ALLEGEDLY

MAKING DEFAMATORY AND FALSE STATEMENTS DURING RECENT
FOREIGN TRAVELS EVIDENTLY ARE STILL PENDING.

3. COURT MADE NO DECISION ON CHARGES AGAINST BEN AMMAR,
AND RESCHEDULED CASE FOR SECOND HEARING MAY 25.
MULCAHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COURTS MARTIAL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TUNIS03477
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780204-0407
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780562/aaaacall.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8021969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TUNIS 2839
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2700867
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ER-RAI DIRECTOR BEN AMMAR APPEARS BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNAL
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, MORG, TS, (BEN AMMAR, HASSIB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8021969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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